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III. REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-9 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Coppersmith *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,390), hereafter "Coppersmith." Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

A. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office has rejected claims 1-9 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, "a computer implemented method for processing a data set." Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1. Applicant asserts that this amendment further directs the invention to statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-9 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection over Coppersmith, Applicant asserts that Coppersmith does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that Coppersmith fails to teach, *inter alia*, formatting a key to match the first length. In contrast, the cryptographic system in Coppersmith uses 64-bit input blocks and a 56-bit key. Col. 4, lines 57-59 and 61-63. Accordingly, Coppersmith does not teach that the length of its key matches the length of the input blocks. In contrast, the present invention includes "...formatting a key to match the first length." Claim 1. As such, the key as included, *inter alia*, in the claimed invention is not a different length from the input blocks as in Coppersmith, but is rather formatted to match the first length, that is, the length of the data. Thus, the key, which is formatted to match the first length of the data, as included in the claimed invention is not equivalent to the key of different length from the input blocks in Coppersmith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw its rejection.

With further respect to independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Coppersmith also fails to teach, *inter alia*, that the first length may be any length. As stated above, Coppersmith teaches a specific length for both the input blocks and the key, namely that the input blocks are 64-bit and the key is 56-bit. Nowhere does Coppersmith teach that the length of the input blocks and key may be any length. The present invention, in contrast, includes "...the first length may be any length." Claim 1. Thus, as opposed to the fixed lengths in Coppersmith, the first length of the data and key as included, *inter alia*, in the claimed invention may be any length. For the above reasons, the fixed lengths of Coppersmith are not

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equivalent to the first length that may be any length as included in the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.
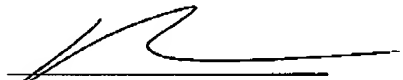
With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicant herein incorporates the arguments presented above with respect to independent claims listed above. In addition, Applicant submits that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicant will forego addressing each of these rejections individually, but reserves the right to do so should it become necessary. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office withdraw its rejection.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 2, 2004

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